

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 04860 161210Z

41

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 SY-05 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

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R 161130Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4802

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, APER, AMGT

SUBJ: GSO STAFFING

REF: STATE 166856, VIENTIANE 4777, STATE 164913

1. THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL THAT RSO O'BRIEN REMAIN AT POST AND ASSUME DUAL RESPONSIBILITY AS SECOND GSO IN ADDITION TO RSO FUNCTION IS ACCEPTABLE BOTH TO POST AND TO MD. O'BRIEN. ALL HERE RECOGNIZE THAT THE JOB WILL BE LARGELY GSO BUT IT DOES PROVIDE THE PRESENCE OF AN SY OFFICER TO HANDLE THE POST SECURITY MATTERS. CONSEQUENTLY, DEPARTMENT SHOULD ARRANGE FOR DIRECT TRANSFER OF RUSSELL MORROW.

2. THIS CHANGE WILL REQUIRE THAT THE SENIOR GSO YET TO BE IDENTIFIED WILL NEED SOMEWHAT BROADER EXPERIENCE THAN WAS ENVISAGED WITH A SECOND OFFICER (MORROW) WHO HAD SOME GSO EXPERIENCE.

3. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY AWARE, THE EMBASSY IS CURRENTLY TIED INTO ITS OWN POWER DISTRIBUTION AND GENERATION SYSTEM FOR ALL FACILITIES WHICH REQUIRES THE PRESENCE OF SOMEONE QUALIFIED IN ELECTRICAL MATTERS. THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR SUCH QUALIFICATIONS, ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY OVER THE COMING MONTHS WE SHALL HAVE TO REDUCE THIS PHASE OF OUR
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 04860 161210Z

OPERATION. IT WILL NOT BE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO

CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR OWN POWER SYSTEM IN VIEW OF THE REDUCED STAFF; BUT IT WILL REQUIRE TIME TO MAKE AN ORDERLY TRANSITION TO COMMERCIAL POWER AND A QUALIFIED PERSON TO OVERSEE THE OPERATION IN THE INTERIM.

4. OUR IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS THE REPLACEMENT OF THE UAE CONTRACT. MFA OFFICIALS HAVE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT DISSOLUTION OF UAE IS A PRIMARY REQUIREMENT IN RESOLVING THE SILVER CITY GSO COMPOUND ISSUE. THEY HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE CONTRACT PROVIDED FOR 30 DAY TERMINATION BY EMBASSY AND THAT NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN. IT IS ALSO PRETTY CLEAR THAT RETENTION OF THE AMERICAN MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR OF UAE, EVEN ON A TEMPORARY AND DIRECT CONTRACT WITH HIM BEYOND THE TERMINATION OF THE UAE CONTRACT, WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE. EVEN WITH POWELL AND O'BRIEN ON HAND, THE ARRIVAL OF SOMEONE (EITHER A REGULAR GSO OR A TEMPORARY SEABEE OR GSO), WHO CAN COPE IN THE AREA OF GENERATORS IS ESSENTIAL. WE REALIZE THAT THE INITIAL ATTEMPTS TO HAVE A SEABEE FOR THIS PURPOSE WERE NOT FRUITFUL. HOWEVER, WE ARE COMPELLED TO REQUEST THAT FURTHER EFFORTS BE MADE TO ASSIGN A TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT IF A REGULAR GSO IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO HAVE A SEABEE NOT CURRENTLY IN THE SEABEE PROGRAM WITH STATE BROUGHT INTO THE SYSTEM FOR THIS PURPOSE? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A QUALIFIED GSO NOW ON ASSIGNMENT AT ANOTHER POST COULD BE SENT TO VIENTIANE FOR A PERIOD OF TDY UNTIL PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE?

5. FOR THE LONGER RANGE, WE REALIZE THE DIFFICULTIES THE DEPARTMENT FACES IN ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE A GSO WITH A BROAD GUAGE BACKGROUND WHO ALSO HAS THE EXPERTISE IN ELECTRICAL MATTERS BUT THAT IS THE OFFICER WE NEED. WE WILL APPRECIATE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE FOR US ALONG THESE LINES.
CHAPMAN

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